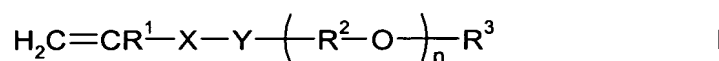


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A water-soluble copolymer which comprises, in copolymerized form,

(a) 60 to 99% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated polyalkylene oxide monomer of the formula I



~~in which~~ wherein the variables have the following meanings:

X is -CH₂- or -C(O)-, if Y is -O-;

is -C(O)-, if Y is -NH-;

is -O- or -O-(CH₂)₄-, if Y is a chemical bond;

Y is -O-, -NH- or a chemical bond;

R¹ is hydrogen or methyl;

R² is C₂-C₄-alkylene radicals, which may be identical or different and also linear or branched, but where at least 50% of the radicals R² are ethylene;

R³ is C₁-C₂₂-alkyl, phenyl, p-(C₁-C₁₂-alkyl)phenyl or hydrogen;

n is an integer from 6 to 50[.];

(b) 1 to 40% by weight of at least one nonquaternized dipolar monomer comprising at least one nitrogen atom and chosen from the group of N-vinylpyrrolidones, N-vinylimidazoles, N-vinylcaprolactams, vinylpyridines, N-vinylformamides, N-vinylacetamides, basic (meth)acrylic esters and (meth)acrylamides[.];

(c) 0 to 39% by weight of other nonionic monoethylenically unsaturated monomers; and

(d) 0 to 10% by weight of other anionic monoethylenically unsaturated monomers;
and has an average molecular weight M_w of from 2000 to 500 000 D.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The copolymer according to claim 1, which comprises, in copolymerized form, as monomer (a), at least one monomer of the formula (I) in which the variables have the following meanings:

X is -C(O)-;
Y is -O- or -NH-;
 R^1 is hydrogen or methyl;
 R^2 is ethylene;
 R^3 is methyl or hydrogen; and
n is an integer from 15 to 25.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The copolymer according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, which comprises, in copolymerized form, as monomer (b), at least one monomer ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of N-vinylpyrrolidones and N-vinylimidazoles.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The copolymer according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, which comprises, in copolymerized form, 90 to 95% by weight of monomer (a), 5 to 15% by weight of monomer (b), 0 to 15% by weight of monomer (c) and 0 to 2.5% by weight of monomer (d).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The copolymer according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which has an average molecular weight M_w of from 4000 to 60 000 D.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of copolymers according to any of claims 1 to 5 as dispersants~~ Dispersants and sequestrants for pigmented materials comprising the copolymers according to claim 1.

Claim 7. (Original): The use dispersants and sequestrants according to claim 6, wherein the pigmented materials are pigment-containing soiling.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of copolymers according to any of claims 1 to 5 as~~ An additive for detergents, laundry pretreatment agents, cleaning compositions for hard surfaces, dentifrices and bodycare compositions comprising the copolymers according to claim 1.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of copolymers according to any of claims 1 to 5 as auxiliaries~~ Auxiliaries for textile processing, paper making and paper processing and deinking processes comprising the copolymers according to claim 1.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A liquid detergent formulation comprising:

(A) 0.05 to 20% by weight of at least one copolymer according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1[[,]];

(B) 0.5 to 40% by weight of at least one nonionic, anionic and/or cationic surfactant[[,]];

(C) 0 to 20% by weight of an inorganic builder[[,]];

(D) 0 to 10% by weight of an organic cobuilder[[,]];

(E) 0 to 60% by weight of other ~~customary~~ ingredients, ~~such as~~ which comprise sodium carbonate, enzymes, perfumes, complexing agents, corrosion inhibitors, bleaches,

bleach activators, bleach catalysts, color transfer inhibitors, graying inhibitors, soil release polyesters, fiber and color protection additives, silicones, dyes, bactericides, organic solvents, solubility promoters, hydrotropes, thickeners and/or alkanolamines; and

(F) 0 to 99.45% by weight of water.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A solid detergent formulation comprising:

(A) 0.05 to 10% by weight of at least copolymer according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~
claim 1[[,]];

(B) 0.5 to 40% by weight of at least one nonionic, anionic and/or cationic
surfactant[[,]];

(C) 0.5 to 50% by weight of an inorganic builder[[,]];

(D) 0 to 10% by weight of an organic cobuilder; and

(E) 0 to 60% by weight of other ~~customary~~ ingredients, ~~such as~~ which comprise
extenders, enzymes, perfume, complexing agents, corrosion inhibitors, bleaches, bleach
activators, bleach catalysts, color transfer inhibitors, graying inhibitors, soil release
polyesters, fiber and color protection additives, silicones, dyes, bactericides, dissolution
improvers and/or disintegrants,

where the sum of components (A) to (E) is 100% by weight.